

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

24 JULY 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. The Arab States

a. The Baathists in Syria, taking Nasir's outburst on Monday as his official withdrawal from the Egyptian-Iraqi-Syrian union drive, have begun to talk up a bilateral union with Iraq.

b. Spokesmen in Damascus are saying that difficulties with Egypt need not rule out a "different union." Such an arrangement would be visible proof of the regime's devotion to Arab unity and the emptiness of Nasir's pretensions to Arab pre-eminence.

c. Baghdad remains silent but its sympathies are clearly with Syria. An Iraqi Baathist said last week: "We will strike the Nasirites with an iron fist and will be in ambush for them here and in Syria."

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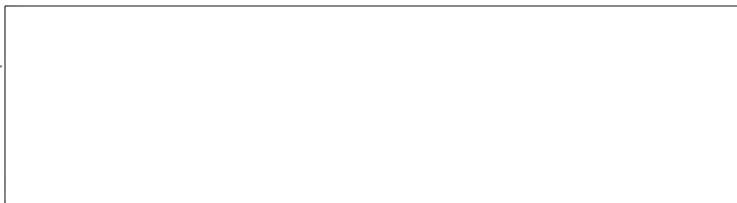
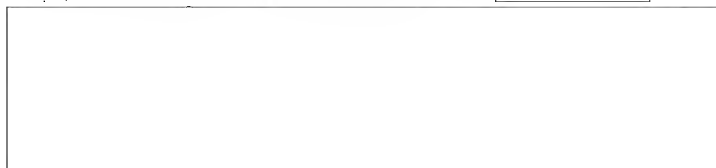
2. Sino-Indian Border

a. Indian officials are concerned over the prospect of a new Chinese Communist military thrust into the Northeast Frontier Agency.

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b. We regard Indian worries as somewhat overdrawn.

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3. Portuguese Colonies

a. Lisbon is reinforcing its garrison in Portuguese Guinea by diverting to the colony several battalions which had been earmarked for service elsewhere in Africa.

b. Ambassador Elbrick believes that the move will enable the Portuguese to hang on to parts of Guinea, but not to pacify the colony or solve basic problems.

c. The dimensions of guerrilla activity are hard to establish, but it seems to have spread to most of the colony in the past few weeks.



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d. The African delegations in the UN have decided to push for economic sanctions against Portugal in the Security Council debate

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e. Embassy Lisbon has been asked to find out what Portugal intends to do with 24 B-26's it has ordered from a Miami firm.

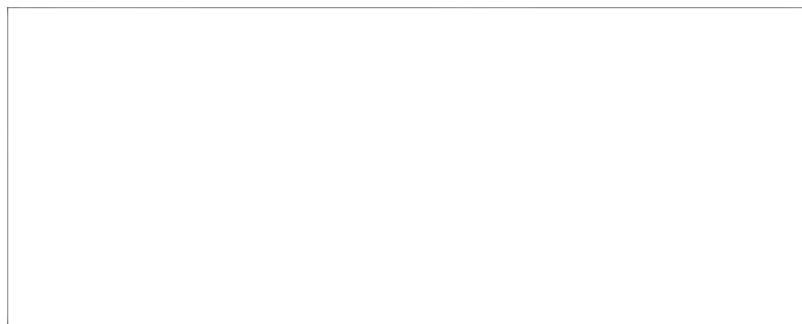
4. Malaysia

a. After several weeks of playing cat and mouse with the summit meeting on Malaysia, Sukarno assured Ambassador Jones yesterday that he would attend.

b. We are convinced, however, that his chief object in going will be to try to delay the formal establishment of Malaysia by insisting on some time-consuming form of self-determination for the British territories in Borneo.

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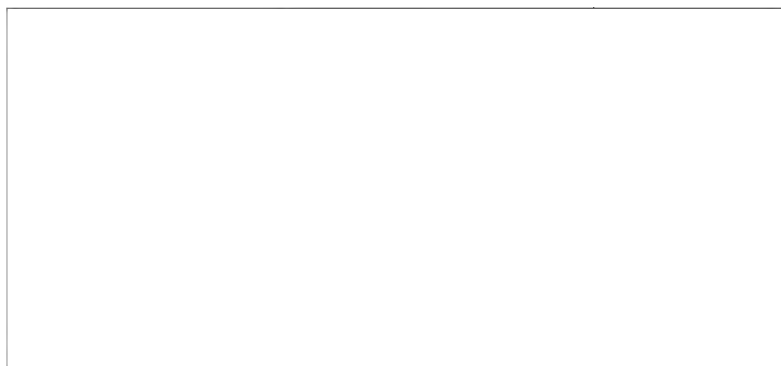
5. Cuba



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6. Indonesia-USSR

a. The Indonesians are still backpedalling on military assistance from the USSR.

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c. Djakarta has also decided to buy only spare parts for military equipment already on hand during the rest of the year. Some military items continue to trickle in under old contracts, however.

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d. Pressures for acquiring added Soviet equipment could build up again as a result of Sukarno's desire to frustrate Malaysia, but we do not expect the Indonesians again to accept the accelerated deliveries.

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NOTES

A. Ecuador The junta has ordered the Ecuadorean Navy to avoid another fishing boat incident "at all costs." Ambassador Bernbaum comments that the order will give breathing space until negotiations on the matter are resumed.

B. The Kurds A cease-fire between the Iraqi Government and the Kurds could be in the works. [redacted] the Iraqis have sent a delegation to see whether the Kurds would like to talk about ending the fighting. The Iranians, [redacted] have indications that both may be ready to consider a truce. [redacted]

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C. Congo [redacted] Tshombe may have left his Paris clinic for the south of France. This could prove to be the first stage of a return trip to the Congo. [redacted] We have an unconfirmed press story that he subsequently left France for an undisclosed location in Spain.

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D. Pakistan [redacted]

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[redacted] A late press item from Rawalpindi has Bhutto reiterating today that Pakistan has had assurances of help from Peiping in the event of an Indian attack.

(Cont'd)

E. Brazil-Cuba Communist-inclined Foreign Minister Lins may support Cuba's bid for membership in the Latin American Free Trade Association.

F. India-USSR [redacted]
the Soviets have agreed to supply India with [redacted]
[redacted] heavy transport aircraft and [redacted] helicopters [redacted]
[redacted] however, the Indians are running into difficulties over the acquisition of more exotic Soviet hardware. Soviet harping on the security expects of a surface-to-air missile sale has "almost become an obsession."

G. France Mr. Nixon is scheduled to have lunch with De Gaulle next Tuesday.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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